

WEATHER.

Fair, warmer tonight and tomorrow; moderate east and southeast winds. Temperature for the past twenty-four hours: Highest, 60, at 2 p.m. today; lowest, 34, at 6 a.m. today. Full report on page 14.

CLOSING NEW YORK STOCKS PAGE 14.

No. 20,116.

WASHINGTON, D. C., MONDAY, OCTOBER 25, 1915.—EIGHTEEN PAGES.

ONE CENT.

BULGARS DEFEATED BY FRENCH TROOPS; SERBS LOSE USKUP

Progress of Austro-German Forces in Northern Serbia Reported Checked.

ALLIES MAY SEND HUGE ARMY TO BALKAN ARENA

Successes of Bulgars in Serbian Macedonia Menace All Railway Communication.

DEDEGAHAICH UNDER FIRE

Ten Civilians and Over a Thousand Soldiers Reported to Have Been Killed in Bulgarian Seaport.

LONDON, October 25, 3 p.m.—French troops routed three divisions of Bulgarians on Saturday on the front of Gradek-Volodovo-Rabrovo in southeastern Serbia, according to a dispatch filed at Saloniki, October 24, to the Havas News Agency. The Bulgarian forces, the dispatch adds, were decimated.

BERLIN, October 25, by wire to Sayville, N. Y.—Further advances for the Austro-German troops on the Serbian front, including a successful forward movement by the new force which has crossed the Danube near the Rumanian frontier, were announced today by the war office. The Bulgarians have advanced twelve miles north of Pirot, near the center of the Serbo-Bulgarian frontier.

PARIS, October 25, 3:10 p.m.—A dispatch filed yesterday at Athens by the Havas correspondent says the Austro-German offensive in Serbia has been brought to a standstill on the entire northern front, according to advices received at Athens from Nish.

South of Pozarevac the Serbians retired a few miles to stronger positions. All Bulgarian attacks on the Timok and Pirot fronts are said to have been repulsed so effectively that the invaders were compelled to fill in gaps in their ranks and reform their units.

Bulgars Suspend Efforts. The dispatch adds that on this northern part of the front, which the Serbians considered invulnerable, the operations of the Bulgarians have been suspended. The Bulgarians are now making their principal efforts in Serbian Macedonia, where their impetus is said to have been checked by the combined movements of the French and Serbians.

Bulgarian troops engaged with the French Friday were subjected to a devastating attack by the French artillery and suffered heavy losses, according to a Havas Agency dispatch from Saloniki under Sunday's date. The losses of the French, the dispatch states, amount to ten killed and a few seriously wounded.

Loss of Uskup Admitted.

According to information from an authorized source, the Bulgarians have taken Uskup, is the concluding sentence of an official statement issued by the Serbian war office and forwarded by the Havas News Agency. The statement, which outlines the situation as it existed Friday, October 22, is as follows: "On the northwest front, after desperate fighting, Serbian troops retired on the left bank of the Mlava on a line running from Volko-Orachie to the village of the Rassenitz. Other troops retired to the right bank of the Koubrohnitz and to the right bank of the Touna.

"Near Yichgrad, in Herzegovina territory, the enemy succeeded in crossing the Drina river with three battalions, and strong groups have been observed passing near that point. "Bulgarian front: Under strong pressure by the enemy in the direction of Kladovo, the Serbians retired on the direct defensive positions of that town. The enemy succeeded in passing to the right bank of the Touna, and advanced toward Kraljevo Selo.

"There is no change in the neighborhood of the enemy attack on the southern Morava have been repulsed. "According to information from an authorized source, the Bulgarians have taken Uskup."

Brilliant French Success.

French troops gained a brilliant success by effecting junction with the Serbs at Krivopal, says a dispatch to the Petit Parisien from Athens. The dispatch, dated Sunday, says: "Bulgarian troops in force were attacking in three columns, when our troops, by a daring maneuver, turned the Bulgarian right flank, while the Serbs launched an energetic counter attack all along the front. At the end of the day the Bulgarians beat a retreat in the direction of Strumitsa, pursued by French troops and Serbian cavalry.

Bulgars Fail at Pirot.

"Bulgarian operations against Pirot were fruitless, therefore they seem to intend to concentrate efforts on Vranja, and are trying an attack en masse on fortifications and positions occupied by the Serbs at Vranja.

"The Bulgarians are stopped on the Vranja, while the Austro-Germans are (Continued on Second Page.)

TRIO OF GERMANS HELD AS PLOTTERS

Robert Fay, W. L. Scholz and Paul Daeché Charged With Conspiracy.

TESTING OF EXPLOSIVES LEADS TO THEIR ARREST

Bombs Designed to Delay Shipments of Munitions to Allies Figure in Allegations.

NEW YORK, October 25.—Robert Fay, who claims to be a lieutenant in the German army, and his brother-in-law, Walter L. Scholz, were arrested yesterday while testing explosives near Grantwood, N. J., and were arraigned today before a justice of the peace at Weehawken, N. J., on charges of conspiracy, and held without bail for examination tomorrow.

The arraignment of the two men disclosed the fact that a third man, Paul Daeché, had been arrested early today at his home in Jersey City after New York and New Jersey police had searched the house. Daeché also was arraigned with Fay and Scholz and held without bail.

Detectives said they expected Daeché to prove a valuable witness, as he already had given them much important information. Daeché said he was thirty-four years old, that he came to this country from Germany in 1912, and was a graduate of Cologne University.

Detective George Barnitz of the New York central office squad made the affidavit upon which the three men were held on charges of conspiracy.

Declare Fay Made Confession.

Announcement was made at police headquarters today by Commissioner Woods that Fay, after an all-night grilling, had made a confession. For more than twelve hours, it was stated, Fay stuck to his original story that he was not connected with the German government. At 5:30 o'clock this morning, according to the commissioner, he broke down and admitted that he was a lieutenant in the German army and came to this country two or three months ago for the specific purpose of experimenting with explosives containing high explosives. This machine, the commissioner said, contained works like a clock and was attached to the propeller or rudder of a ship.

The machine was so constructed, he said, that the stirring of the water would cause a red cord to spring, resulting in an explosion, which would disable the ship. Only ships in the nearest port. This was for the purpose of delaying shipments of munitions to the allies. Only ships in the nearest port. This was for the purpose of delaying shipments of munitions to the allies. Only ships in the nearest port. This was for the purpose of delaying shipments of munitions to the allies.

Investigation Is Continued. Meanwhile the authorities continued an investigation to discover whether in arresting Fay and Scholz they had obtained the key to a long series of explosions on steamships, fires on piers and so-called accidents in various war munition plants.

Fay was suspected by the police of being the director of their activities. Fay said he was a lieutenant in the German army and came to this country two or three months ago for the specific purpose of experimenting with explosives containing high explosives. This machine, the commissioner said, contained works like a clock and was attached to the propeller or rudder of a ship.

Explosive Found in Rooms. A large quantity of explosives, including dynamite and various kinds of acid used in the making of explosives, was found in the rooms Fay and Scholz occupied in Weehawken or in a storehouse in Hoboken. Among the devices seized by the police were peculiar bombs or mines believed to be designed for fastening to the rudders of steamships.

Fay Had Auto and Boat.

At a garage in Weehawken the police found a high-powered automobile held in Fay's name, and at a boat house on the Hudson river a swift motorboat which he was said to own. In the boat house they also found four wooden boxes, each containing 120 pounds of chlorate of potash, one of the ingredients used in the manufacture of so-called sugar bombs, in which water percolating into the explosive melts the sugar, releasing springs and causing an explosion.

Watched for Two Months.

The two men had been watched by detectives of the New York police department for two months. They were seen to pay frequent visits to an isolated spot in the woods of Grantwood, N. J., on the palisades near Weehawken. Saturday detectives found in a tree-top the testing scene of their activities for eleven hours.

They say they saw the two men come there late at night and test an explosive by blowing up a tree. "On the northwest front, after desperate fighting, Serbian troops retired on the left bank of the Mlava on a line running from Volko-Orachie to the village of the Rassenitz. Other troops retired to the right bank of the Koubrohnitz and to the right bank of the Touna.

DEMANDS HEAVY SENTENCE.

Italian Prosecutor Denies Charlton Was Mentally Irresponsible.

COMO, Italy, October 25, via Paris, 1:46 p.m.—The crown prosecutor, Signor Mellini, delivered his argument to the jury today in the case of Porter Charlton, the American who is on trial for the murder of his wife. Signor Mellini denied that Charlton was mentally irresponsible, even momentarily, at the time the deed was committed. The prosecutor denied Charlton had had provocation for killing his wife, and insinuated he married her for her savings and that he had appropriated her jewels after killing her. He ended his address with a demand for a heavy sentence.

LEADERS DISCUSS PARTY OUTLOOK

Democrats Will Combat Republican Plans for Control of the House.

OUTLINING THE PROGRAM FOR CAMPAIGN OF 1916

Attitude of the German-Americans Toward President Wilson Is Giving Concern.

BY N. O. MESSENGER.

NEW YORK, October 25.—Chairman Doremus of the democratic national congressional campaign committee and Fred B. Lynch, democratic national committeeman from Minnesota, held a long conference here yesterday on the democratic political outlook. Mr. Lynch, who has been in the east practically all the summer and fall is one of the leading spirits in the national democratic management, although he persistently seeks to avoid notoriety as such.

He is "gun shy" of publicity, although in inside democratic circles he is discussed as the possible next democratic national chairman in case of reorganization of the national committee.

Chairman Doremus of the congressional campaign committee and representative of the Detroit district in the House of Representatives is concerning himself mainly with undertaking the next campaign for the election of democratic majority in the house, the ground work of which will be laid at the coming session of Congress.

Republican Plan of Attack.

Word has come to the democratic managers that the republicans are planning to strike their hardest blows in the congressional campaign next fall; that in a spirit of "having some thing from the wreck" the republicans will bend every energy to electing a republican House, especially if President Wilson's popularity continues at high tide at another year. According to the information received by the democratic managers the more astute of the republican leaders realize that President Wilson, in event of the continuation of the war and his personal popularity, will be asked to resign for re-election, but feel certain that a republican House can be elected.

The democratic managers are not willing to concede this differentiation, however, and will not let it be used to cause a red cord to spring, resulting in an explosion, which would disable the ship. Only ships in the nearest port. This was for the purpose of delaying shipments of munitions to the allies. Only ships in the nearest port. This was for the purpose of delaying shipments of munitions to the allies.

Considering the German Vote. The democratic managers are also taking cognizance of the attitude of the German vote in its increasing hostility to President Wilson, threatening extension to the whole national administration as the result of republican factional fights in 1912 and continued in 1914.

Chairman Doremus read in the morning a dispatch from Boston, from Massachusetts telling of anti-Wilson feeling in the Bay state, where at Worcester yesterday forty-six organizations of German-Americans, with a membership of 20,000, adopted resolutions to "unitedly discuss the question of the Star of Gephards, and also declared themselves as 'firmly opposed to the re-election of Woodrow Wilson as President of the United States'."

The meeting was called by John Albrecht, law professor of German literature at Harvard University and state chairman of the National German Alliance. The purpose was said to be to induce American citizens to consent to take a more active interest in political affairs.

Republicans Aiding Suffragists.

Several republican politicians of national note are also in town or hereabouts. Senator Borah of Idaho and Representative Mondell of Wyoming are in the state to help the woman suffragists. They spoke here Saturday night and are now in state. Representative Campbell of Kansas, in his fight to help the McCall gubernatorial election, is in the state. He made a long enough to picture glowing republican prospects in Kansas.

Dennis Flynn of Oklahoma is here and said this morning down to 56 Main street, where he is staying, that he had a strong impression in that state on his visit a fortnight ago, and that the Weeks presidential boom is taking well. He added, however, that there is a strong demand for Elihu Root, in the middle west is for a republican candidate of conservative type.

James B. Reynolds, secretary of the republican national committee, got back to town yesterday from a long western trip. The Star's correspondent who struck Mr. Reynolds' trail at several points in the west, was passing "hat." Delicacy forbade inquiry upon this point today, but as Mr. Reynolds started this morning down to 56 Main street, to call on National Chairman Charles D. Hilles of the republican national committee, it was probable that he had swallowed the canary; so, maybe, it was true.

NEW ORDER IN COUNCIL

HITS NEUTRAL SHIPPING

LONDON, October 25, 1:05 p.m.—An order in council was gazetted today obligating from Wednesday last observance of article 57 of the declaration of war, which provides that the neutral or enemy character of a vessel is determined by the flag she is entitled to fly.



News Note: Reports say that Hiram Johnson will be California's candidate for the republican nomination next year.

U. S. BORDER PATROL AND BANDITS FIGHT

Attack Made on Detachment of 4th Infantry North of Brownsville. One Private Killed.

BROWNSVILLE, Tex., October 25.—Virtually the entire strength of the United States border patrol in this district spent last night in a search for Mexican bandits who attacked a detachment of the 4th United States Infantry at the spot north of Brownsville where a train was wrecked and three Americans killed one week ago today.

In the fighting last night Private Herman E. Moore of French Lick Springs, Ind., was fatally wounded. So far as known none of the Mexicans was hit. The scene of the fighting and the tactics employed by the Mexicans led army officers today to assert that the Mexicans engaged probably were members of the bandit gang of the train wrecking and which is said to have been led by Luis De La Rosa, fomentor of the so-called "Texas revolution."

Planned to Surround Americans.

Sergeant Arthur Estridge of the 4th Infantry reported to Port Brown that five Mexicans were seen to cross the railroad tracks near where the infantry was stationed. A moment later both sides opened fire; then the real strength of the Mexicans appeared. Probably sixteen of them engaged in the fighting and it is believed they had planned to surround the small American detachment and annihilate it. Every five minutes the Mexicans fought for about five minutes and then made off just in time to escape two companies of infantry and two troops of cavalry, which were rushed to the scene from Fort Brown in commandeered automobiles.

NO DISCUSSION OF PEACE.

Official Denial of Correspondence Between Pope and Belgian King.

PARIS, October 25.—Official denial is given in a statement issued by the Belgian government at Havre, says a dispatch to the Havas News Agency, to the report that letters had been exchanged between King Albert and Pope Benedict concerning peace.

A Rome dispatch October 21, said Pope Benedict, had received from King Albert a reply to the pontiff's autograph letter urging peace. The dispatch said that the pope had accepted the conclusion of peace. The king is reported to have declared he never would lay down his sword while his country was "in slavery."

BIG CARGO FOR RUSSIA.

Japanese Steamer Carries Locomotives, Rails and Barbed Wire.

PHILADELPHIA, Pa., October 25.—The Japanese steamship Senju Maru has sailed from this port for Vladivostok with a cargo of locomotives, railway material and barbed wire for the Russian government. This was the third consignment of the order placed in this city and vicinity and consisted of eight locomotives and tenders, 12,432 steel rails, 2,000 keels of staples and 10,800 reels of barbed wire. The cargo is valued at more than \$216,000. The Senju Maru will sail via Cape Horn owing to the closing of the Panama canal.

ARMY PROGRAM DETAILS HOLDS PART OF CLAIMS

Chairman Hay of House Committee Confident Congress Will Adopt Plans.

Chairman Hay of the House military committee, went over the details of the army program with President Wilson today and announced that it would have his hearty support.

Chairman Hay said that he considered the program very conservative, and saw no reason why there should be difficulty in getting Congress to adopt it. He added that he would secure as speedy action in the House as was possible.

Would Increase Pay of Militia.

In addition to the plans prepared by Secretary Garrison, Chairman Hay said he would make efforts to strengthen the National Guard. He said he favored increasing the pay of the organized militia.

FRENCH GAIN A VICTORY IN CHAMPAGNE DISTRICT

PARIS, October 25, 2:35 p.m.—An important success by the French troops in the Champagne district is announced by the French war office this afternoon.

In spite of a fierce resistance, French troops, following a preparatory artillery fire, occupied an important position known as "La Courtine." The losses of the Germans are described as serious and let the French advance.

The eighth German attack in five days on the strong entrenched positions in the wood of Givency, north of Arras, was repulsed Saturday, with sanguinary losses, according to the French war department.

BERLIN, October 25.—Today's official statement by the German war office says, concerning the western front, that after a heavy preparatory artillery bombardment the French attacked near Tahure and north of La Mennil, and were repulsed with heavy losses.

DIRECTOR OF LABORATORY.

Surgeon General Blue Appoints Surgeon McCoy to Important Post.

Surgeon General Blue of the public health service today announced the appointment of Surgeon George W. McCoy as director of the hygienic laboratory here, succeeding Dr. John F. Anderson, who recently resigned to accept private employment.

Druyfus' Nephew Falls in Battle.

PARIS, October 25.—Sub-Lieut. Emile Druyfus, nephew of Alfred Dreyfus, has been killed in action with his regiment, the 32d Artillery. Although only twenty-four years of age, Lieut. Druyfus had won the military cross of the Legion of Honor.

JUSTICE GOULD SAYS CONGRESS CANNOT CUT ATTORNEYS' FEES TO 20 PER CENT OF AMOUNT.

Section 4 of the omnibus claims bill, passed March 4, 1915, which prohibits the payment of more than 20 per cent of certain claims against the United States recovered in the Court of Claims, as compensation for services to attorneys, is unconstitutional, according to an opinion rendered today by Justice Gould of the District Supreme Court.

The opinion holds that the section deprives the attorney of a property right without due process of law.

Justice Gould said that the lawyer's fee agreement, which in the case at bar was one-third of the claim, not only recognized, not only by Congress, but by the Supreme Court of the United States, he also points out that making the appropriation to pay the claimant the compensation provided by the Constitution for the judicially ascertained value of his property taken by the United States, Congress did not bestow upon him a bounty, but paid a judgment debt.

There was, therefore, no violation of the bill and the 33-1-3 per cent stipulated in the contract.

Disposes of Similar Cases.

The decision of the court will dispose of a number of similar cases where matter would have to go to Congress for settlement, but said he believed the constitution should give it consideration. He added, however, that he was not even sure that the resolution as offered by him today would ever be introduced in the Senate, intimating that after hearing all the arguments he might change his mind.

Senator Works also had read by the secretary of the committee, Representative Rainey, a letter written by William E. Shannon to President Brandenburg of Iowa, in which Mr. Shannon argued against the retention of the half-and-half plan, and advocated a plan very similar to that offered in Senator Works' resolution.

FRENCH CABINET CRITICISED.

Paris Temps Calls on Premier Viviani to Use a Firm Hand.

PARIS, October 25.—"The Duty of the Government" is the heading of a leading article printed in the Temps which discusses the situation confronting the cabinet brought on by the Balkan policy and aggravated by the resignation of Theophile Delcasse from the foreign ministry.

The Temps says the hour for many resolutions has struck. It admits a change in the ministry at this time would be a grave error. It declares that a feeling of uneasiness being apparent, it would be better frankly to remedy it, and that it would be better to deny its existence.

Premier Viviani, the newspaper contends, must assume sufficient authority to relieve the cabinet of recognized impediments and to harmonize the combination in the ministry. In view of the political situation in the Balkans, which, the Temps says, is full of traps, it is necessary to forecast all possible eventualities, disagreeable as they may be.

Sunday Rest for War Prisoners.

ROME, via Paris, October 25.—All the belligerent powers have granted the request of Pope Benedict that Sunday be made a day of absolute repose for prisoners of war. Several of the countries in their replies said that they already had been observing this rule.

Zinc Money for Luxemburg.

LUXEMBURG, October 25, via Berlin and London.—The Luxemburg authorities have decided to follow the German and Belgian examples and have ordered coinage of 200,000 francs in five and ten centime pieces of zinc.

JOINT COMMITTEE HEARS PLEA FOR HALF AND HALF

Arguments in Behalf of the District Civic Organizations Begun Today

by H. B. F. Macfarland.

Senator Works Submits Resolution Providing for the Abolishment of the District as a Municipality and for Establishing a New Form of Local Government.

The argument of the joint citizens' committee representing the civic organizations of Washington for the retention of the half-and-half plan of appropriating for the expenses of the District of Columbia was begun today before the joint select committee of Congress appointed to investigate the fiscal relations between the United States and the District of Columbia. Henry B. F. Macfarland began for the joint citizens' committee. He will be followed by Theodore W. Noyes and A. S. Worthington.

Senator John D. Works of California, a member of the congressional committee, submitted for the consideration of the committee and also of the joint select committee, a resolution providing for a new form of government in the District. Briefly, it would have the District of Columbia as a municipality go out of existence, the United States taking title to all the property of the District and assuming all its debts and obligations. It would have the federal government pay all the expenses of the District, which hereafter would be known in a notional book as Washington pay taxes similar to those paid by residents of other American cities. The same taxes, these taxes to be paid into the federal Treasury. The appropriations for the District would be made by Congress, without reference to taxes paid by the citizens of the District.

Plan Offered by Mr. Rainey. Representative Rainey of Illinois, also a member of the congressional committee, during Mr. Macfarland's discussion of the half-and-half plan, suggested a plan which he has set down in a note book as he has proceeded. Mr. Rainey's plan would retain the present municipal government, but would have the taxes collected in the District paid directly into the federal Treasury; property in the District should be assessed at its true value, and the taxes would be similar to those in other cities of the same size; the development of the city would be continued on the same scale as it has been, but would be subject to the resolution before the committee, said it was prepared after considerable study of the situation.

"The fundamental error which exists in the relations between the United States and the District of Columbia," said Senator Works, "lies in the fact that the District is considered the principal in the ending, and the United States is considered merely as a contributor. As a matter of fact, the United States is the principal, and should carry on the government of its own National Capital."

Senator Sausbury of the investigating committee suggested that to give consideration to the plan outlined by Senator Works would be to give the powers of the congressional committee which was appointed to report to Congress merely what the District government should be borne by the federal government.

"In creating the committee," said Senator Sausbury, "Congress assumed that the District of Columbia would remain as a District."

Admits Congress Should Decide. Senator Works admitted that the whole matter would have to go to Congress for settlement, but said he believed the constitution should give it consideration. He added, however, that he was not even sure that the resolution as offered by him today would ever be introduced in the Senate, intimating that after hearing all the arguments he might change his mind.

Senator Works also had read by the secretary of the committee, Representative Rainey, a letter written by William E. Shannon to President Brandenburg of Iowa, in which Mr. Shannon argued against the retention of the half-and-half plan, and advocated a plan very similar to that offered in Senator Works' resolution.

"I had framed that resolution, however," said Senator Works, "long before I saw the letter written by Mr. Shannon." He asked Mr. Macfarland if all the members of the organizations represented in the committee were of one mind in regard to the half-and-half plan. Mr. Macfarland replied that undoubtedly individual opinions existed within and without these organizations, as in the case of Mr. Shannon, but that as a whole the organizations favored the retention of the half-and-half plan.

All of the members of the joint select committee, of which Senator Chilton of West Virginia is chairman, were present when the hearing began today. It was determined that the other representatives of the joint citizens' committee had been heard. Herbert J. Brown, who was opposing the half-and-half plan, would have three hours to state his views. He is expected to be heard tomorrow afternoon or Wednesday morning. He will be followed by representatives of the Tax Reform Association, headed by W. M. Keeler. The other representatives of that association will be C. S. Davis and James Hugh Keeler.

Hearing Attracts Large Crowd. The committee room in the Senate office building was crowded with interested listeners when the hearing opened, and the arguments were followed with close attention.

Mr. Rainey, after reading his suggested plan for meeting the expenses of the government, asked Mr. Macfarland how the citizens' joint committee would feel about it.

Mr. Macfarland replied that the citizens' joint committee would be opposed to it.

"We expect to show," he said, "that the citizens of the District are not paying just taxes—as big as those of citizens in other similar cities in this country. Such a plan as you suggest, Mr. Rainey, was existing in 1878, when the organic act of the District became the law. Such a system did not work in those days, and it is only since the half-and-half plan was adopted in 1878 that there has been systematic development of the District. If the development of the District is to be whatever tax money can be raised in the District and to spasmodic appropriations made from the federal Treasury for the District by Congress, there could not be the continuance of the progress which we all desire. A definite proportion of the expenses of the District should be paid by the federal government should be asked if there is to be progress."

Senator Works asked what function the government of the District of Columbia would perform. "It would perform the same function as the government in its capital," he said. "There are many which I might cite," said Senator Macfarland, "but one important matter is that the District government now gives the people here a certain measure of self-government and representation before Congress which they would not have if the United States government took the place of the District government."

"Agent of U. S. Government." Senator Works asked what function the government of the District of Columbia would perform. "It would perform the same function as the government in its capital," he said. "There are many which I might cite," said Senator Macfarland, "but one important matter is that the District government now gives the people here a certain measure of self-government and representation before Congress which they would not have if the United States government took the place of the District government."

Former Senator Blackburn Quoted. While Mr. Macfarland was quoting from an answer as long as the streets owned the street as long as the streets are dedicated to the public use," Mr. Macfarland replied that he spoke of this ownership merely to show the absolute control of the United States in its property. "The United States," he said, "has the right to close streets or to use them for any purpose whatsoever." Mr. Macfarland said that the committee legal references, the principal one being the old Van Ness case, which was decided in 1878, and to whom title reverted in case of property abandoned by the United States. "The original owner," was the reply.